

## BOOK REVIEW

RICK BENNETT AND SUSAN CALLA (EDS). 2009. **A Rare Botanical Legacy: The Contributions of Ruby and Arthur Van Deventer.** (ISBN 978-1-59714-116-1, cloth hbk.). Heyday Books, P.O. Box 1945, Berkeley, California 94709, U.S.A. (**Orders:** [www.heydaybooks.com](http://www.heydaybooks.com), 1-510-549-3564, 1-510-549-1889 fax). \$35.00, 154 pp., 100+ paintings and photographs, 9 1/4" x 12 1/4".

From the time of their marriage in 1915 to their deaths in the mid-1970s, Ruby and Arthur Van Deventer were a remarkable couple. A high-school teacher, Ruby also managed her family's ranch in northern California, while Arthur was an engineer and at one time a ranger in the Klamath-Siskiyou forests. Their mutual interest in plants led to their extraordinary botanical legacy of plants and art. Ruth collected plants in Del Norte County, finding and identifying the county's native plants, often contacting botanist Willis Jepson who was compiling his comprehensive flora of the state. The plants of the county had not before been documented, so Jepson was most appreciative of Ruth's work. Arthur made watercolor paintings of the plants, probably producing as many as 400, of which a hundred and twenty are reproduced in this book. The paintings are lovely and graceful if not botanically exact. Ruth Van Deventer's herbarium of 3500 plants is deposited in Humboldt State University, while her manuscripts along with Arthur's paintings and drawings are in the Del Norte County Historical Museum in Crescent City. Adding to the charm of this work is David Rains Wallace's essay on the couple.—  
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